

YOU MIGHT HAVE ENGINEERING TALENTS

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These are good opening questions for students in the classroom to get them involved and help them identify for themselves if they have characteristics of an engineer or engineering talents.

- Have you ever felt the need to make a difference or make something around you better?
- Do you get organized to do something by laying out your tools and "sterilizing" your workspace?
- Do you have to move several other projects aside before you have space to get organized and lay out your tools?
- Do you sort your Skittles or M & M's by color before you eat them?
- Did you hear the sad story about the quality control person who was fired at the M & M plant for throwing away the threes, Es and Ws ? Do you understand why this joke was sad and shook your head (instead of laughed - in a timely manner)?
- Have you ever said to yourself, "That thing-a-ma-jig doesn't work very well. I'm sure I can make it better by . . . "?
- Have you ever said to someone else, "I wish that right-handed-smoke-shifter was made so that a left-handed person could use it with her/his left hand. It could be used by everyone if they had just done. . . "?
- Have you ever been caught using a tool in a novel new (usually unorthodox) way just because it seemed like it would do the job?
- Do you enjoy finding beauty and wonder in the natural world around you?
- Have you ever taken something apart to see how it works?
- Do you find yourself torn between wanting to try out a new "toy" and taking it apart to see how it works?
- Do you think that rocket scientists and parents are too attached to their toys (when they find out that you took them apart)?
- Were you able to put it back together completely (or with only one or two leftover parts)?
- Do you have a spare parts box, can or drawer for the leftover parts that you might need later (it could be filled with parts, buttons, marbles, or thing-a-ma-jigs)?
- Do you enjoy finding specialized tools to make your hobbies or explorations easier?
- Have you ever been heard to say (or thought to yourself), "Why, if I had invented that, I'd have made it with at least two more features"?
- Do you care deeply about doing things efficiently, orderly or "just-so"?
- Even if you hesitated to accuse yourself of these items but smiled because you could envision yourself in these situations, you just might be an engineer or have engineering talents.